



Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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For the week ending July 1, 2012

OPPRESSIVE HEAT AND BRUTALLY DRY CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO STRIKE TENNESSEE FARMLAND

The hottest temperatures on record coupled with no precipitation last week led to a deterioration of crop conditions throughout the state. Topsoil moisture supplies are rated short or very short on 94 percent of Tennessee farmland. The corn and pasture acreages are especially affected, as almost half the corn is rated in very poor or poor condition with two-thirds of the pastures in this same category. Soybean, tobacco, and cotton acreage remained in mostly fair-to-good condition but declined substantially in one week. Pastures are parched and livestock producers are feeding hay, an event that normally begins in the fall. Farmers last week were topping tobacco, feeding hay, marketing cattle and spraying pesticides. Irrigation was underway where available.

There were 7.0 days suitable for fieldwork across the state. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 56 percent very short, 38 percent short and 6 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 46 percent very short, 41 percent short and 13 percent adequate. Temperatures across the state averaged 5 to 10 degrees above normal while significant rainfall amounts were non-existent.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2011	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Corn – Silking or Beyond	86	70	44	55	Cattle	6	11	39	40	4
Corn – Dough or Beyond	12	n/a	1	2	Corn	18	29	32	19	2
Cotton – Squaring	58	46	43	59	Cotton	6	12	31	45	6
Cotton – Setting Bolls	3	0	0	3	Pastures	27	38	27	8	0
Soybeans – Emerged	98	93	81	85	Soybeans	12	21	33	32	2
Soybeans – Blooming	29	15	10	16	Tobacco	4	9	42	41	4
Soybeans – Setting Pods	10	n/a	1	2						
Tobacco – Topped	4	n/a	1	1						

n/a = not available

County Agent Comments

“The lack of rain and the 100+ degree temperatures are deteriorating the county's crops at a rapid rate especially the non-irrigated corn. These weather conditions could not have come at a worse time with all of the corn crop trying to pollinate. Cotton and beans seem to be holding up better but with the forecast for more of the same these too will be suffering by this time next week. Pastures have dried up and cattle producers are feeding hay.”
Steve Burgess, Carroll County

“Crops have really begun to suffer and go backwards this week. Rain is needed yesterday.”
Richard Buntin, Crockett County

“Corn twisting, pastures dying, producers feeding hay, perilla mint toxicosis in cattle. Very Hot and Dry here, zero precipitation (from a spotted shower) since June 11th.”
Amanda Mathenia, Decatur County

“Another week of extreme heat with no rain has taken a toll on all crops and livestock. Pastures are parched and some livestock owners are feeding hay. Corn and soybeans are in desperate need of rain as they continue to look worse each day.”
Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County

“Tobacco growers with irrigation are all pumping water. Corn is showing signs of severe drought stress.”
Paul Hart, Robertson County

“Producers feeding hay - many hay sellers already out of hay - high nitrates in forages - many considering green chopping corn or chopping for silage. Water supplies an issue.”
David Qualls, Lincoln County

“Pastures virtually non-existent in many areas. Many farmers feeding hay and several already asking about sources to buy hay.”
David Glover, Smith County

“Extreme heat and dry conditions dominate the week. Absolutely no moisture fell anywhere in the County for a second week in a row, coupled with triple digit temperatures, extremely low humidity and hot dry wind, most crop hopes are quickly dwindling.”
Ed Burns, Franklin County

“Burnt to a crispy crunch. Producers are chopping corn for silage, beef producers are feeding what little hay they made this spring and vegetables and home gardens are almost gone. Many producers are asking about testing for nitrates. The 100 plus temperatures this past week has made this summer worse than last year.”
Kim Frady, Bradley County

“Need rain. Saw a farmer digging a waterline about 4-5' deep. Nothing but powder! Several fires have been started along roadsides-Cigarettes I guess. Everyone has stopped bush-hogging for fear of starting a fire/or think cows will eat it anyway. Corn is twisting. Late corn may not survive this heat and drought.”
John Goddard, Loudon County

“Most areas are extremely dry with little or no rain predicted for next 7 days.”
Chris Ramsey, Sullivan County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: July 1, 2012 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending July 1, 2012				Current Week 7/01/12	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
West										
Ames_Plantation	102	52	82	5	0.00	0	19.52	-8.79	9.02	-5.34
Brownsville_TN	103	59	83	5	0.00	0	17.15	-11.20	6.91	-7.48
Covington	100	59	81	3	0.00	0	17.62	-10.47	5.48	-8.75
Dyersburg	103	59	84	4	0.00	0	15.44	-11.10	6.30	-7.26
Huntingdon_Wate	106	55	81	5	0.00	0	16.83	-10.96	8.14	-5.73
Jackson_Exp_Stn	102	56	82	5	0.00	0	18.08	-10.13	7.14	-7.64
Lexington_TN	104	55	81	4	0.00	0	19.03	-7.87	7.88	-5.67
Martin	105	59	83	6	0.00	0	17.18	-10.53	6.42	-7.88
Memphis_AG	102	57	83	2	0.00	0	23.96	-3.78	12.91	-1.16
Milan	105	54	83	7	0.00	0	15.16	-13.62	4.65	-10.34
Paris	104	55	81	5	0.00	0	15.51	-11.74	5.81	-7.76
Savannah_6SW	106	54	82	5	0.00	0	24.01	-7.00	11.05	-4.32
Selmer	107	53	82	6	0.00	0	23.90	-6.62	11.11	-3.99
Union_City	105	53	81	4	0.00	0	16.74	-10.83	7.14	-7.08
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	109	56	83	7	0.00	0	13.00	-13.57	3.62	-9.13
Cookeville	105	55	79	5	0.00	0	21.43	-8.14	6.30	-8.07
Crossville_AP	102	52	78	7	0.00	0	22.15	-7.22	7.64	-6.53
Dickson_AG	106	53	81	5	0.00	0	17.93	-10.71	6.13	-8.33
Dover_1W	108	60	84	8	0.00	0	16.82	-10.77	6.13	-7.39
Fayetteville_TN	107	54	83	8	0.00	0	21.80	-7.21	6.81	-6.75
Jamestown	103	53	77	5	0.00	0	24.03	-4.38	8.31	-6.11
Kingston_Spring	109	53	81	6	0.00	0	18.81	-8.55	7.86	-5.37
Lewisburg	109	52	81	6	0.00	0	16.13	-12.92	5.44	-8.87
Livingston_WLIV	106	55	79	5	0.00	0	21.17	-5.96	4.92	-8.54
Lobelville	107	52	80	4	0.00	0	17.65	-12.17	7.02	-7.64
Murfreesboro_5N	108	52	81	5	0.00	0	17.80	-9.98	5.69	-8.15
Nashville_Metro	109	61	85	8	0.00	0	18.17	-7.13	7.12	-5.79
Oneida	104	53	78	7	0.00	0	26.32	-2.13	9.42	-5.01
Portland_TN	106	57	81	6	0.00	0	18.37	-9.26	6.69	-7.48
Pulaski_Water_P	106	53	80	3	0.00	0	19.48	-9.81	8.25	-5.47
Shelbyville	107	55	84	8	0.00	0	19.86	-9.07	5.94	-7.94
Sparta_TN	108	52	80	6	0.00	0	17.33	-11.39	4.35	-9.65
Springfield	106	58	81	6	0.00	0	23.61	-2.86	11.92	-1.52
Springhill	110	50	81	6	0.00	0	17.65	-11.73	6.56	-8.03
Tullahoma	106	59	84	9	0.00	0	19.56	-10.73	6.19	-7.96
Waynesboro_TN	104	51	79	5	0.00	0	24.33	-6.45	12.49	-2.33
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	107	62	85	8	0.00	0	20.35	-7.86	6.02	-6.29
Cleveland_6NNE	105	56	80	6	0.00	0	16.91	-12.27	5.34	-8.11
Dayton	103	59	81	6	0.00	0	22.96	-6.70	8.63	-4.83
Erwin_1W	102	50	75	5	0.00	0	20.90	-4.28	10.20	-3.33
Gatlinburg_2SW	103	49	74	4	0.00	0	29.36	0.50	12.79	-1.98
Greeneville	101	49	76	3	0.00	0	22.60	0.50	11.48	0.19
Kingston_AG	106	60	82	8	0.00	0	24.90	-5.62	9.92	-4.35
Knoxville_AP	105	60	82	7	0.00	0	25.44	0.00	9.65	-2.33
Newcomb	106	49	76	5	0.00	0	24.72	-3.73	8.26	-6.17
Norris_4NE	103	51	77	4	0.00	0	25.96	-1.75	9.45	-4.21
Tri-City_RGNL_A	103	50	77	5	0.00	0	17.83	-3.49	7.10	-3.74

DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) measured in inches.

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